

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 1 had been rejected because of the number of informalities. Applicants have amended claim 1 in the fourth line to include a “,” after “injector” and have modified claim 1 to change “molydate” to “molybdate”. Applicants believe the amendments fully address the objection and withdrawal of the same is respectfully requested.

Claim 1-11, 17, 20 and 22-28 had been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Etievant, et al. (U.S. patent number 6,245,309) in view of Pettit (U.S. patent number 6,232,005) and further in view of Schmidt (U.S. patent number 4,027,476). The Examiner acknowledges that Etievant, et al. does not disclose the use of a suppression foam position between the catalyst bed and the fuel injector, nor a catalyst agent that includes one or more of gold, lead, or specified gold compounds. The reason that Etievant, et al. does not disclose the use of a “foam being constructed and arranged to suppress auto ignition and suppress carbon formation” is because Etievant, et al. is directed to a method and device for producing hydrogen using a cold plasma of electrical discharges. See column 6, line 59 to column 7, line 4. Auto ignition does not occur in Etievant, et al. Thus, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to modify Etievant, et al. as suggested in the Examiner’s rejection.

Furthermore, even if there was some motivation, which Applicants deny, to modify Etievant, et al. ‘309 as suggested in the rejection, Pettit, U.S. patent number 6,232,005, fails to disclose a “foam being constructed and arranged to suppress auto ignition and suppress carbon formation” as recited in independent claim 1. Pettit ‘005 discloses a sintered metal disk 88 that functions as a flame arrester. See column 5, lines 53-58. Pettit ‘005 fails to disclose a

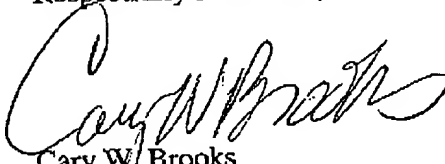
foam for suppressing auto ignition. Furthermore, Etievant, et al. '309 discloses a fuel conduit 22, air charge line 30, and steam charge line 26 having an end positioned immediately adjacent a metal wall 16 of a cylindrical reaction chamber 10a. There is no suggestion of how and why a person of ordinary skill in the art would modify Etievant, et al. '309 to accommodate the sintered metal disk 88 disclosed in Pettit '005. Schmidt '476 does not overcome the deficiencies of Etievant, et al. '309 or Pettit '005. No prima facie case of obviousness has been established.

Applicants have added new claim 29 which depends from claim 1 and is believed to be patentable on the same basis. Applicants have also added independent claim 30 and dependent claims 31-33. Independent claim 30 also recites a "foam being constructed and arranged to suppress auto ignition and suppress carbon formation" and thus is believed to be patentable over the references relied on in the rejection for the same reasons stated above.

Please charge General Motors deposit account number 07-0960 the fee associated with the addition of claims 29-33.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims now in the case.

Respectfully submitted,


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